

Law Offices
ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, L.L.P.
Suite 1000, 1725 K Street
Washington, D.C. 20006

(202) 659-2930
Facsimile (202) 887-0357 or (202) 331-7519

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: May 15, 2003
TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Examiner Julian A. Mercado
Group Art Unit: 1745
RE: U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/622,615
Inventor: Mitsuzou NOGAMI et al.
Attorney Docket No. 000774
FROM: Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.
FAC. TEL. NO.: 703-872-9426

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 3

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE SAFE AND CLEAR RECEIPT OF ALL PAGES BEING SENT

DAG/plb

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE IS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED. This message may also be an attorney/client communication which is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by calling us collect and return the original message to us at the above address by mail. Thank you.

LAW OFFICES

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

SUITE 1000

1725 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006(202) 659-2930
FACSIMILE (202) 887-0357
FACSIMILE (202) 331-7519
FACSIMILE (202) 887-5155
VIDEO (202) 728-6844
www.armstrongpat.comJAMES E. ARMSTRONG, III
WILLIAM F. WESTERMAN
KEN-ICHI HATTORI
WILLIAM G. KRATZ, JR.*
MEL R. QUINTOS
DONALD W. HANSON
STEPHEN G. ADRIAN
SCOTT M. DANIELS
WILLIAM L. BROOKS
THOMAS J. MACPEAK
JOHN F. CARNEY
JOHN P. KONG
JAMES E. ARMSTRONG, IV
SADAO KINASHITHOMAS E. BROWN*
MICHAEL J. CARIDI*
MICHAEL S. ALPRIN*
JOSEPH L. FELBER
KENNETH H. SALEN*
MICHAEL N. LAU
GEORGE N. STEVENS**Practice limited to matters and proceedings
before federal courts and agenciesTOKYO LIAISON OFFICE
6TH FL., DIAMOND PLAZA BLDG.
25 CHIBANCHO, CHIYODA-KU
TOKYO 102, JAPAN
TEL. (03) 3234-8429
FACSIMILE (03) 3234-5643PITTSBURGH OFFICE
THE LAW & FINANCE BUILDING
SUITE 707, 429 FOURTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219
TEL (412) 281-2831
FACSIMILE (412) 281-1821BALTIMORE OFFICE
502 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 220
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204
TEL (410) 337-2295
FACSIMILE (410) 337-2296SENIOR COUNSEL
LEONARD BLOOMOF COUNSEL
RONALD F. NAUGHTON*
EDWARD F. WELSH*
NICOLAS E. SECKEL*
NICHOLAS S. BROMER*
EDWARD F. KENEHAN, JR.JAPANESE BENRISHI
YASUHISA KUROSEPATENT AGENTS
JAMES N. BAKER
DANIEL A. GESELowitz, Ph.D.
SHUJI YOSHIZAKI

May 15, 2003

VIA FACSIMILEU.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450Attention: Examiner Julian A. Mercado
Group Art Unit: 1745Re: U.S. Patent Application S.N. 09/622,615
Inventor: Mitsuzou NOGAMI et al.
Attorney Docket No. 000774

Dear Examiner Mercado:

It was good talking to you on May 15, 2003, regarding the possibility of an interview in this application. I would like to propose the following claim amendments for discussion in an interview. These proposed amendments would leave claims 1-5, 11 and 26 pending.

Cancel claims 12-18 and 25. Amend claims 1 and 2 as shown below.

1. (Twice Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth

Examiner Mercado
May 15, 2003
Page 2

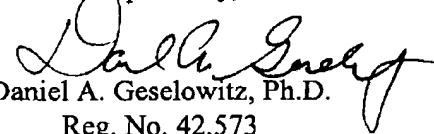
Bi is formed only on a surface that contacts with an electrolyte solution of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

2. (Amended) A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing cobalt together with at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium Ca, strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed only on a surface that contacts with an electrolyte solution of the active material formed on the porous sintered nickel substrate.

This amendment is supported by the claims and by the specification on page 14 (Examples A1 to A11). Reference may also be made to Figure 1.

I look forward to talking to you on Tuesday morning, May 20, 2003.

Respectfully,


Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 42,573
Agent for Applicants

DAG/plb